

Idaho Bulletin: 300-13-9

Subject: LTP –Idaho Greenhouse Gas Project

Date: February 15, 2013

Action Required By: May 1, 2013

Purpose. To provide guidance to support the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) project during Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Expiration Date. September 30, 2013

Background. In FY 2011, the Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) project titled “Agricultural Soil Carbon: Developing a Large-scale Agricultural Soil Carbon Transaction in the Palouse Region” was awarded to Applied Ecological Services (AES) Inc. New for FY 2013, EQIP funding has been reserved by the national office to support projects where eligible producers will implement GHG benefitting conservation practices that compliment and support this GHG-CIG project. Funding for this effort will be available in specific counties across Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The approved counties for the EQIP GHG project in Idaho are Benewah, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce.

Explanation. Refer to the attached Field office and AES GHG fact sheets for detailed information related to this project. All applications will be screened using the attached GHG screening tool.

The following dates have been established for the FY 2013 funding cycle:

- March 15, 2013 – Application cutoff
- March 22, 2013 – Applications entered in Protracts
- April 12, 2013 – Eligibility completed
- May 3, 2013 – Ranking completed and cost estimates entered in Protracts
- June 7, 2013 – Contract obligation

The approved land use for the EQIP-GHG project is:

- Crop

The approved resource concern available for the EQIP-GHG project is:

- Air Quality-Excessive Greenhouse Gas-CO₂

The approved conservation practices available for the EQIP-GHG project are:

Core Conservation Practice	Supporting Conservation Practices
Residue Mgt., No-till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (329)	Residue Mgt., Seasonal (344)
	Residue and Tillage Mgt., Mulch Till (345)
	Cover Crop (340)
	Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
	Mulching (484)

Please note: 329 Practice Standard - Additional Criteria to Reduce CO2 Loss from the Soil

The Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) value shall include all field operations that are performed during the crop interval between harvest of the previous crop and harvest or termination of the current crop and shall be no more than 20. An evaluation of the cropping system using the current approved soil conditioning index procedure shall result in a positive trend.

Payment Schedules. The following payment schedules are available in Protracts and the ID SharePoint site to be used for the EQIP GHG project:

- EQIP GHG.xlsx
- EQIP GHG HU.xlsx

All EQIP applicants must meet EQIP eligibility requirements in order to participate. The EQIP producer eligibility requirements can be found in the Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Section 515.51. The EQIP land eligibility requirements can be found in the CPM, Section 515.52.

Please complete the following prior to **April 12, 2013**:

- Ensure eligibility is met in ProTracts. At least 15 days prior, send 'pending' letter if eligibility is not current.
- Enter Direct Deposit (SF-1199A) and ensure that Vendor Code is **Active** in Protracts.
- Enter Dun and Bradstreet Number (DUNS) for applications submitted by entities and joint operations using an Employer Identification Number (EIN).
- Ensure the race, sex, national origin, and disability (RSNOD) data in SCIMS is correct. Entities as well as individuals should have updated RSNOD data.
- Ensure applicants that have self-certified as Historically Underserved complete the HU worksheet.
- Select the appropriate fund code, payment schedule and planning type for each application.
- Inform the applicant what records will be required should their control of land or HU self-certification be selected for an annual 5% spot check.

Ranking. The Ranking tool is available in Protracts. Ranking and cost estimates will be completed by **May 3, 2013**.

After applications have been determined eligible, ranking is complete, and a cost estimate is entered in Protracts, the following steps will be completed for contract development:

1. The State Programs staff will preapprove applications as funds are available. Notification will be sent via email.
2. Upload the contract to ProTracts, check rules, and ensure that all information is accurate on the application and applicant info screens.
3. Email the State Programs staff to request approval.
4. Once approved, print the NRCS-CPA-1202, Appendix and NRCS-CPA-1155 and obtain participant signatures.
5. Send documents, along with the completed Protracts Obligation Checklist, via e-mail or fax to Financial Management for second level review.
6. When you are notified that the State Programs staff has signed and obligated the contract, print the 1155 and 1202 signature pages and place them in the case file.

The **obligation deadline** for all contracts is **June 7, 2013**.

Contact. Please contact your Area Farm Bill Specialist if you have any questions.

/s/

Jeff Burwell

State Conservationist

Attachments: GHG Field Office fact sheet.docx

AES GHG fact sheet.pdf

Palouse GHG Idaho priority soils map.pdf

GHG project screening tool.docx